

Claims:

S
1. A cordless telephone, comprising:
A
2. a base unit; and
3. a handset, the handset including
4. a keypad,
5. a key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key
6. sequence, and
7. a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a
8. determination of the predetermined key sequence.

2. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the outgoing call is initiated to
a telephone number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence.

1 3. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the predetermined key
2 sequence is 9-1-1.

1 4. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 1, wherein the base unit is adapted to
2 establish a link with a network based on a signal from the controller in the handset, to
3 sense a dial tone, and to output dual tone multifrequency signals corresponding to a
4 number to be dialed to the network.

1 5. A cordless telephone as recited in claim 4, wherein the network is a public
2 switched telephone network.

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1. A handset for a cordless telephone, comprising:
2. a keypad,
3. a key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key
4. sequence, and
5. a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a
6. determination of the predetermined key sequence.

1. 7. A handset as recited in claim 6, wherein the controller is adapted to output a
2. signal to a corresponding base unit based on the determination of the predetermined key
3. sequence.

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1. 8. A handset as recited in claim 7, further comprising an RF transceiver, wherein the
2. signal is output to the base unit via the RF transceiver.

1. 9. A handset as recited in claim 7, wherein the signal informs the base unit that the
2. predetermined key sequence has been detected.

1. 10. A handset as recited in claim 7, wherein the signal comprises a dialing sequence
2. of a number to be dialed.

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1. 11. A handset as recited in claim 10, wherein the dialing sequence corresponds to the
2. predetermined key sequence.

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12. A method of placing a telephone call from a cordless telephone handset that is in an on-hook condition, comprising the steps of:
1 sensing the activation of a predetermined key sequence; and
2 initiating a telephone call based on the sensed activation.

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13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the telephone call is to a telephone number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence.

- 1 14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the predetermined key sequence is 9-1-

- 2 1.

- 1 15. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the initiating step includes sending a
2 signal to a corresponding base unit.

- 1 16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal indicates detection of the
2 predetermined key sequence.

- 1 17. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal includes a dialing sequence.

- 1 18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the dialing sequence corresponds to the
2 predetermined key sequence.

- 1 19. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the signal is sent via an RF link.